

## What is Claimed:

1           1.       A method for determining a display format of a display device, the method  
2 comprising the steps of:

3           sensing information provided by a display device having a display format, the  
4 sensed information being indicative of the display format of the display device; and

5           determining the display format of the display device responsive to the sensed  
6 information.

1           2.       The method of claim 1, wherein the display device includes a register  
2 containing information indicative of the display format and wherein the sensing step  
3 comprises at least the step of:

4           reading the register to obtain the information indicative of the display format.

1           3.       The method of claim 2, wherein the register includes a manufacturer and  
2 model number of the display device and wherein the determining step comprises at least  
3 the step of:

4           determining the display format for the display device based on the manufacturer  
5 and model number read from the register.

1           4.       The method of claim 2, wherein the register includes an aspect ratio and  
2 resolution of the display device and wherein the determining step comprises at least the  
3 step of:

4           determining the display format for the display device based on the aspect ratio and  
5 resolution read from the register.

1           5.       The method of claim 2, wherein the reading step comprises at least the step  
2 of:

3 reading the register over at least one video signal line coupled to the display  
4 device, the at least one video signal line configured as a two-way data path.

1 6. A method for determining display device characteristics, the method  
2 comprising the steps of:

3 sensing information provided by a display device having display parameters, the  
4 sensed information being indicative of the display parameters of the display device; and

5 determining the display device characteristics responsive to the sensed information.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the display device includes a register  
2 containing data indicative of the display parameters and wherein the sensing step  
3 comprises at least the step of:

4 reading the register to obtain the data indicative of the display parameters.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the register includes data indicative of a  
2 manufacturer and model number of the display device and wherein the determining step  
3 comprises at least the step of:

4 determining a display format for the display device responsive to the manufacturer  
5 and model number.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the register includes data indicative of an  
2 aspect ratio and resolution of the display device and wherein the determining step  
3 comprises at least the step of:

4 determining a display format for the display device responsive to data indicative of  
5 the aspect ratio and resolution.

1 10. The method of claim 7, wherein the register includes data indicative of an  
2 aspect ratio of the display device and wherein the determining step comprises at least the  
3 step of:

4           determining the aspect ratio of the display device from the read data.

1           11.    The method of claim 7, wherein the register includes data indicative of a  
2 resolution of the display device and wherein the determining step comprises at least the  
3 step of:

4           determining the resolution of the display device from the read data.

1           12.    The method of claim 7, wherein the reading step comprises at least the step  
2 of:

3           reading the register over at least one video signal line coupled to the display  
4 device, the at least one video signal line configured as a two-way data path.

1           13.    A video monitor including:

2           a display device;

3           a digital register coupled to the display device, the digital register including data  
4 indicative of at least one characteristic of the display device; and

5           a data path coupled to the digital register to provide the data indicative of the at  
6 least one characteristic of the display device to an output port.

1           14.    The video monitor of claim 13, wherein the data path is a video signal path  
2 configured as a two-way data path.

1           15.    The video monitor of claim 13, wherein the at least one characteristic  
2 includes an aspect ratio of the display.

1           16.    The video monitor of claim 13, wherein the at least one characteristic  
2 includes a resolution of the display.

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1           17.    The television of claim 13, wherein the at least one characteristic includes  
2 manufacturer and model number of the display.

1           18.    A video display system including:

2           a video display having a register including data indicative of at least one  
3 characteristic of the video display; and

4           a decoder configured to read the data in the register of the video display and  
5 determine the at least one characteristic of the video display from the data.

1           19.    A video display system according to claim 18, wherein the at least one  
2 characteristic includes an aspect ratio of the display.

1           20.    A video display system according to claim 18, wherein the at least one  
2 characteristic includes a resolution of the display.